GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2269
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
OVER-EXPLOITATION OF GROUND WATER
Jindal Shri Naveen

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantity of groundwater is being used for commercial purposes by the soft drinks and bottled drinking water companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the water tables are dipping as a result of groundwater being drawn by these companies;

(d) if so, the extent thereof;

(e) whether the Central Underground Water Authority has laid down any norms in this regard;

(f) if so, the main features thereof;

(g) whether these norms are being strictly observed by the companies; and

(h) if not, the action taken against them for violation of the norms?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)&(b) The ground water is used mainly for agricultural and domestic purposes and it is also used for industrial and commercial purposes.

(c)&(d) The studies conducted by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) reveal that the water tables are dipping due to cumulative effect of domestic, agricultural and industrial use, including withdrawals of ground water by soft drinks and bottled drinking purposes.

(e) to(h) The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has been constituted for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water management. The Authority has been vested with powers to invoke penal provisions, as may be necessary under the law.